

HLAA TC

September 2021

Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota



The mission of HLAA TC is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Zoom meetings continue through the end of the year 2021:
(email treasurer@hlaatc.org for invite)

September 18
Speakers: Kaitlyn Gloege and
Abdelrahman Elkenawy
Co-founders of Hearing Glasses

Back to School 2021...



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Officers' emails

- **Christine Morgan** – president@hlaatc.org
- **Dwight Maxa** - vicepresident@hlaatc.org
- **Lionel Locke** - treasurer@hlaatc.org
secretary@hlaatc.org
- **Christy Myers** – director@hlaatc.org

HLAA TC Website - Minnesota
www.hlaatc.org

HLAA TC telephone 763-447-9672
Contact Information - Minnesota
info@hlaatc.org

HLAA National - Maryland
www.hearingloss.org

Meetings of the Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA TC) will be held on Zoom until further notice.

President's Message



HLAA-TC President's Message September 2021

Well, our mask-free days were short-lived! The Board had planned to institute in-person meetings. However, in order to provide a safe environment and one in which we can “hear” each other, we are going to stay with Zoom meetings at least through the end of 2021.

Our next meeting is September 18, 2021. Our Treasurer/Secretary will automatically send Zoom links to all members in good standing. By the way, we do accept credit cards! If you have not paid your \$15 dues or are not a member, be sure to send an email to treasurer@hlaatc.org if you wish to attend the September meeting.

Our September speakers are two bright, young entrepreneurs who will present information on their “Hearing Glasses”. See further information in this newsletter. In October, we will have a representative from Williams Sound presenting an update on assistive technology. In November, we will have Sara Oberg presenting on Aural Rehab for people with hearing loss. Many of you know Sara and/or have heard her speak before.

Currently, our Board consists of only 4 people (not including our Editor and Social Media Specialist). We cannot accomplish our mission without more help. There are still hundreds of people in Minnesota with hearing loss who don't even know we exist.

The Board is working on improving outreach to greater Minnesota but we need your help! You don't have to be an expert in hearing loss. You only need a desire to work with and help the over a million people in Minnesota with hearing loss. Let's let them know they are not alone!

As always, we appreciate your suggestions and feedback.

Peace and good health!

Christine



Board Members

Christine Morgan
president

Dwight Maxa
Vice President

Lionel Locke
Secretary/Treasurer

Christy Myers
Director at Large

HLAA-TC Newsletter Editor
Vicki Martin
Social Media Specialist
Laura Hagemann

September Speakers



Kaitlyn Gloege

Abdelrahman Elkenawy

Kaitlyn Gloege (Founder & CEO of Hearing Glasses LLC)

- Studying Management Information Systems, Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Previous experience running a physical product company
- System Developer Intern at Federated Insurance

Abdelrahman Elkenawy (Abdou, Founder & Head of Hardware for Hearing Glasses LLC)

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering
- Studying for Master of Science in Electrical Engineering, Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Researching the methods of human-machine interaction with IoT devices through the use of AR and AI for thesis.

Hearing Glasses caption real life conversations and sounds providing better inclusion and safety for the user. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use Hearing Glasses to fully take part in conversations with those around them without the need for an interpreter. They also can be alerted of day-to-day noises such as car horns, sirens, and public announcements. All of this in a discrete way looking similar to everyday glasses made for any type of hearing loss.

Action Alert: Cogswell-Macy Act

Write to legislators about education legislation

Recently, the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) [sent out a call to action](#) encouraging individuals to contact their legislators and ask them to support the Cogswell-Macy Act, which is designed to improve services and educational opportunities for students who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, and blind.

Sample script

Visit "[Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act, H.R. 1959, S. 813](#)" for a sample script you can use for your letter(s) or phone call(s).



Action Alert: Medicare Coverage of Hearing Aids—Congress Needs to Hear from You!

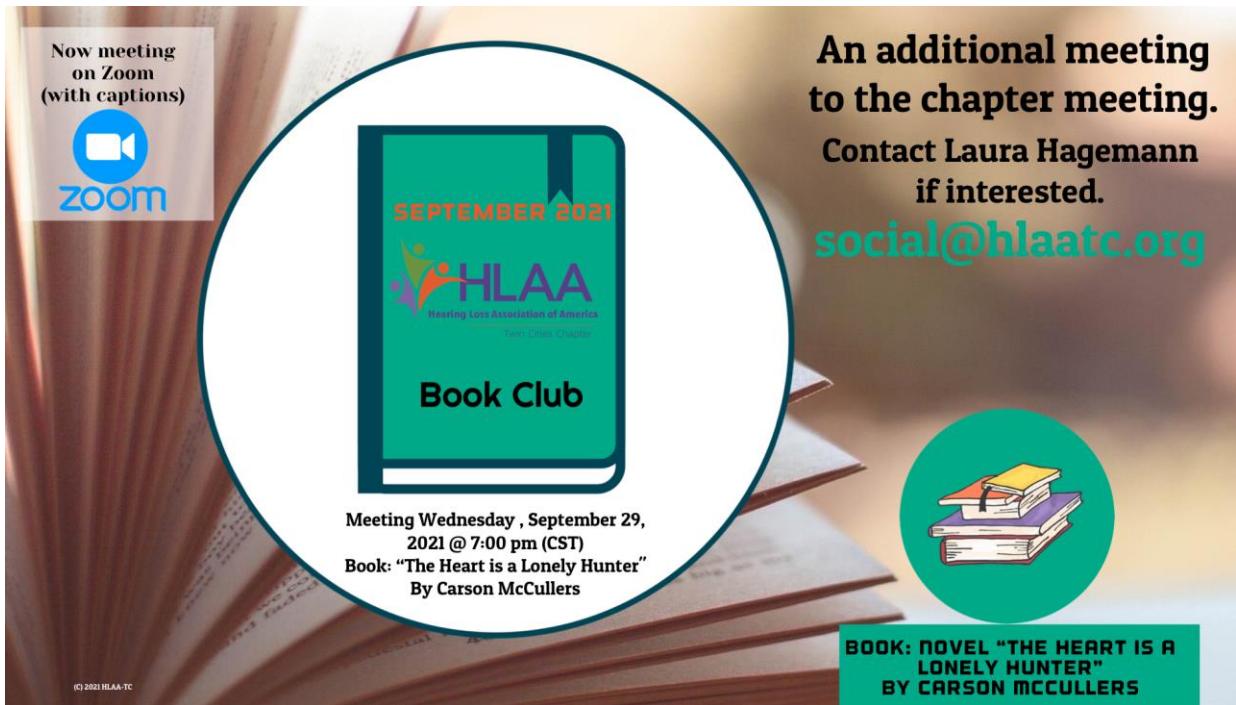
Let Congress Hear from You!

HLAA has been meeting with members of Congress, encouraging them to vote YES! to expand Medicare to include hearing aids and services. New legislation is coming up soon that we hope will include a provision for hearing health care under Medicare. That would mean for the first time, people who rely on Medicare to pay their medical bills would also be able to turn to Medicare to cover the cost of hearing aids and related services.

Let Your Voice be Heard!

Tell your Senators and Congress members that hearing health care is important to you!

If you have questions, contact Lise Hamlin, director of public policy at HLAA, at LHamlin@hearingloss.org.



The Heart is a Lonely Hunter

By Carson McCullers

Book Club discussion Wednesday September 29, 2021 7:00 PM CST

Our next book is the novel “The Heart is a Lonely Hunter” by Carson McCullers. The synopsis from [Amazon](#) is: “With its profound sense of moral isolation and its compassionate glimpses into its characters' inner lives, the novel is considered McCullers' finest work, an enduring masterpiece first published by Houghton Mifflin in 1940. At its center is the deaf-mute John Singer, who becomes the confidant for various types of misfits in a Georgia mill town during the 1930s. Each one yearns for escape from small town life. When Singer's mute companion goes insane, Singer moves into the Kelly house, where Mick Kelly, the book's heroine (and loosely based on McCullers), finds solace in her music. Wonderfully attuned to the spiritual isolation that underlies the human condition, and with a deft sense for racial tensions in the South, McCullers spins a haunting, unforgettable story that gives voice to the rejected, the forgotten, and the mistreated—and, through Mick Kelly, gives voice to the quiet, intensely personal search for beauty.”

We are alternating each month between fiction and nonfiction books . Last month we discussed “Shouting Won’t Help—Why I and 50 Million Other Americans—Can’t Hear You” by Katherine Bouton. And we were joined in our discussion by Katherine Bouton. It was an engaging and informative discussion with people joining us from other HLAA chapters (Florida and North Carolina to name a few).

In May and July we also had authors attend. In May we had Noel Holston join us to discuss his memoir “Life After Deaf.” And in July we had author Heather Gudenkauf to discuss her thriller novel (with a deaf protagonist) “Not a Sound.”

HLAA-TC Book Club plans to continue to meet throughout the year with the schedule and book selections chosen by attendees.

If you are interested in attending a book club, all meetings are open to everyone (whether you’re an HLAA member or not). If interested, send an email to Laura Hagemann at social@hlaatc.org and she will send you a Zoom meeting link.

Free!

Two hearing aids, Starkey Z Series, barely used
(owner now has more powerful aids)



If interested, please TEXT Judi Swan at 763-331-1746 or Dave Swan at 763-331-1697

Here's a great way to listen-to-it on the website!

<https://www.starkey.com/z-series/>



(National)

PRESENTS: WEBINAR



REGISTER

HLAA is proud to host a Talkback with the filmmakers of the award-winning documentary, "We Hear You." Executive produced by HLAA members Holly Cohen, Shari Eberts and Roxana Rotundo, and also featuring HLAA member Toni Iacolucci, "We Hear You" was named **Best Film on Disability** in the June 2021 awards of the Cannes World Film Festival.

Register here to watch the film and attend the Talkback with the producers. You will receive a link two weeks prior to the event to watch the film online at your convenience. The Talkback, moderated by Gael Hannan, will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the documentary—across two continents during the COVID-19 pandemic—and give the filmmakers the opportunity to hear from you—the hearing loss community. For more information about the film visit we-hearyou.com.

Questions? Email us at webinars@hearingloss.org.

Moderated by:

Gael Hannan



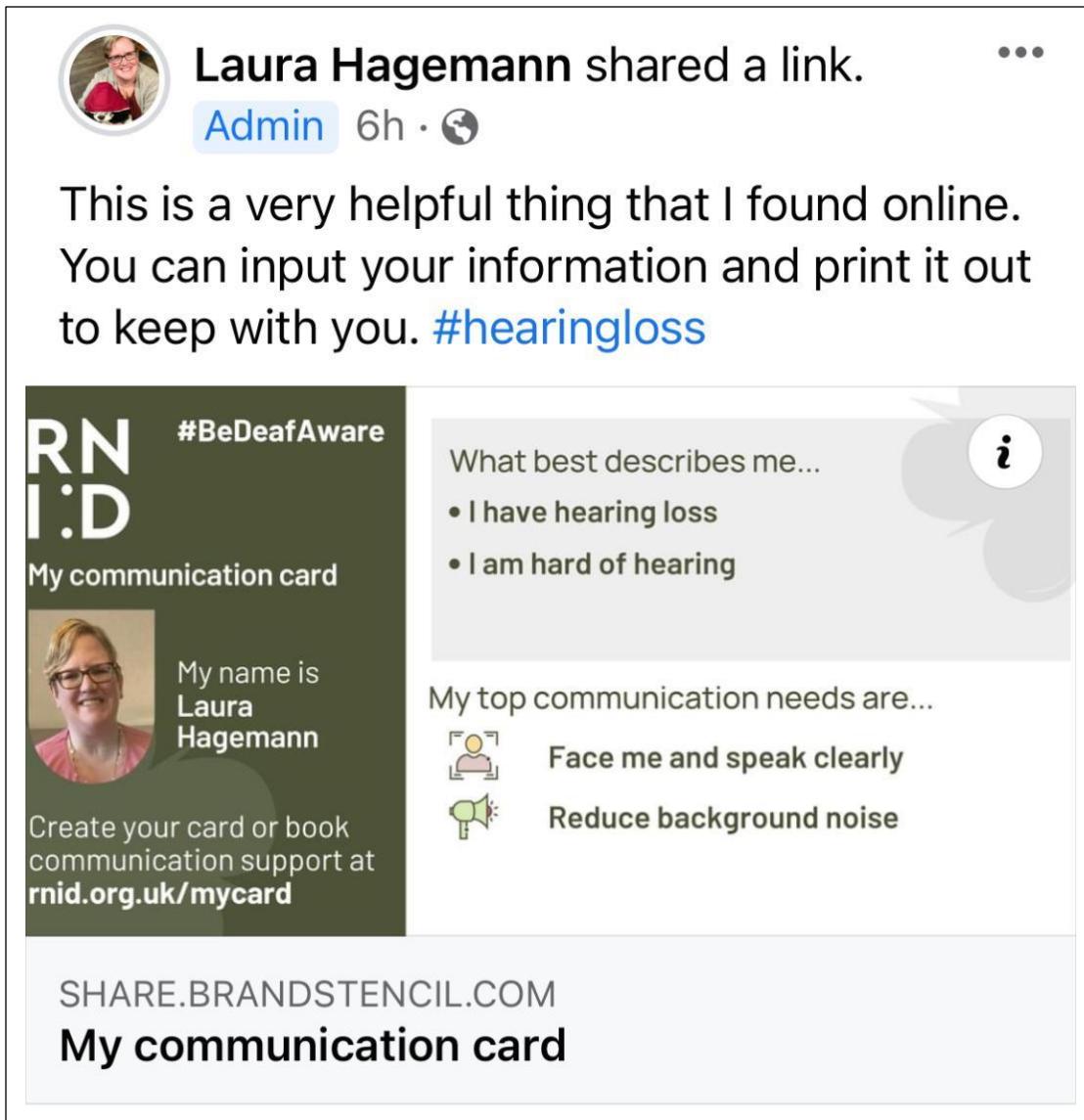
Communication Card

Laura Hagemann (Book Club Coordinator and Social Media Specialist) shares a website: "It lets you make an ID-like card with information about your hearing loss, etc. It's a British site but it still works for our purposes."

Link to it here:

<https://rnid.org.uk/get-involved/create-a-personalised-digital-communication-card/>

Here is Laura's communication card:



Laura Hagemann shared a link.
Admin 6h · 

This is a very helpful thing that I found online. You can input your information and print it out to keep with you. **#hearingloss**

RNID #BeDeafAware

My communication card

My name is **Laura Hagemann**

Create your card or book communication support at rnid.org.uk/mycard

What best describes me...

- I have hearing loss
- I am hard of hearing

My top communication needs are...

-  Face me and speak clearly
-  Reduce background noise

SHARE.BRANDSTENCIL.COM
My communication card

Sunday Morning

By Vicki Martin

On August 15 2021, we Zoomed church. The day before, a 7.5 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti. Later that evening, the Taliban took Kabul. The Delta variant of COVID-19 was shooting back up. Fires were raging. Hurricanes were brewing.

The title of the sermon, recorded prior to that tumultuous weekend? “Not a God of Chaos”.

The presentation was a cornucopia of accessibility: audio, video, captioning, slides – all were present. Despite all of these means of accessing the information, it was confusing to listen to. Here is a summary of the good, the bad, and the cognitive burden that each laid on our minds:

Audio

Good: the sound was good – mostly loud enough and fairly clear.

Bad: the speaker bounced from one topic to another, leaving one struggling to identify the current topic even while he raced on to another

The audio faded out when he walked away from the microphone

Cognitive burden: identifying the local topic, filling in the words not heard, missing larger chunks of audio when speaker is farther away

Video

Good: was clear, and speaker remained in view

Bad: out of sync with audio, so speechreading is a bit dizzying

Cognitive burden: dealing with a disconnect between the words mouthed by the speaker and the non-synchronized audio.

Captions:

Good: many words were no doubt correct, and they do help us piece it all together

Bad: like news captioning, well, you had to be there...

It is hard to guess how many words were right, because when you guess, you don’t remember if the word was read or “heard”.

Cognitive burden: there is a need to compare what is heard with what is read. Did they seem to match? If so, did the result make sense? If not, which made more sense (speech, speechreading, or captions?)

Captions were not always visible long enough to read them. Sometimes several previous lines would appear at once and/or the newest one would go away. Forces your mind to backtrack.

(Sunday morning, cont.)

Slides

Good: slides do help the viewer stay focused on the current subject matter

Bad: they were only partly visible on the screen.

Cognitive burden: could compete with captioning

ALL of these information formats help, and it is important that they are all there. As we learned during the 2020 Covid year, technology improves with use, and improves more rapidly with greater usage.

Yes, the world is chaotic. We know that all too well. All of the multi-tasking, cognitive switching, and competing yet incomplete threads of input increase our anxiety, but in the end they all work to bring it together – and the point is made. There is coherence.

“Not a God of Chaos”? It’s true! The chaos in our lives comes from the gaps and disorganization in our own brains. That, in turn, can come from human weakness or disability. Technology can help fill in those gaps, though imperfectly. That’s good to remember on Sunday morning.



National HLAA Comments on OTC Hearing Aids

Barbara Kelley, Executive Director, Hearing Loss Association of America.

Do You Believe Everything You Read on the Internet or See on TV?

On July 9, President Biden signed a sweeping [executive order](#) that included directing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to consider issuing proposed rules within 120 days for allowing hearing aids to be sold over the counter (OTC)...

We have hopes for OTC devices, in that, some people might take a first step to address their hearing loss, even if it's just some hearing enhancement in specific situations. This could be a first step on the journey of progressive hearing loss...

Truth: To be very clear, hearing aids sold over the counter are intended for adults with mild to moderate hearing loss. *Read the full article here: [OTC](#)*

Unemployment Anxiety Hits Home

By Vicki Martin

Katherine Bouton, describing how she felt when she faced the possibility of losing her job due to hearing loss, said that she could not think of a single job she could do without being able to hear well. This comment really resonated with me.

I did not face losing my job because of my hearing. However, every time there was a “downsizing” at the large company I worked for, I struggled to think of any job that I could do other than the one I already had. I could not think of a single one. Nothing involving children. Nothing involving people reluctant to speak loudly and look me in the eye. Nothing involving people with a foreign accent. Nothing involving telephones or recordings. Nothing involving music. Nothing involving chit-chat.

I knew the job I already had – hunkered down alone in a cubicle, analyzing computer code – was the only one I could do.

Thankfully, when downsizing reached my own desk I was already 62, eligible for retirement benefits and Social Security if needed, and ready to leave the corporate world for good. It worked out.

For many, especially those with hearing loss, it doesn’t. Here are some statistics:

[Fewer than 40 percent](#) of those with a hearing disability work full time, according to the Yang-Tan Institute at Cornell University's analysis of 2016 [American Community Survey](#) data (NPR website)

In the year 2018, an estimated 39.5 percent (plus or minus 0.66 percentage points) of non-institutionalized persons aged 21 to 64 years with a hearing disability in the United States were employed full-time/full-year ([disabilitystatistics.org](#))

Those with severe hearing loss had an unemployment rate (15.6%) double that of the typical-hearing population (7.8%), ([Hearing Health Foundation website](#))

(The difference between the percentage of people “not working” and the percentage “unemployed” is likely due in part to many having given up on looking for work)



HLAA TC

PO Box 26021

Minneapolis, MN 55426



Next meeting: Zoom on September 18

First Class

HLAA Twin Cities Chapter

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

State.....Zip.....

Phone.(area code).....

E-Mail.....

Individual \$15
 Professional \$50
 Supporting \$100
 Newsletter only \$15
 Contact me for newspaper advertising

Mail to: **HLAA Twin Cities Chapter**
PO Box 26021
Minneapolis, MN 55426



Welcomes You!

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Christine Morgan - president@hlaatc.org

Vice President -
Dwight Maxa vicepresident@hlaatc.org

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The next meeting of the Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA TC) will be held on Zoom on September 18, 2021. Open to socialize at 9:30 AM, formal meeting 10 AM.

Please visit the chapter's web-site at www.hlaatc.org or visit us on Facebook: [groups/HLAA-TC](#).

Accommodations: All meetings are real time captioned by Lisa Richardson and her staff of *Paradigm Captioning* (www.paradigmreporting.com).